

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following listing of the claims. Please note that in the amendments to the claims, deletions are indicated by strikethrough (e.g. ~~deletion~~) or double brackets (e.g. [[word]]) and additions to the claims are underlined (e.g. addition).

1. **(Currently Amended)** An off-road vehicle comprising a frame, a plurality of wheels supporting the frame, the plurality of wheels comprising at least one front wheel, and a prime mover powering at least one of the wheels, the prime mover being mounted on the frame, the frame having a plurality of frame portions including at least first, second and third frame portions that extend adjacent to the prime mover, the first and second frame portions being disposed generally to the lateral sides of the prime mover with the third frame portion extending generally between said first and second frame portions, and a detachably affixed frame portion that is detachably coupled to at least one of the first, second and third frame portions such that the detachably affixed frame portion can be detached from the frame while at least the first, second and third frame portions remain supported by the at least one front wheel, the detachably affixed frame portion extending adjacent to an upper portion of the prime mover, the vehicle further comprising a load container being coupled to at least one of the first, second and third frame portions.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Original)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the prime mover is an internal combustion engine.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An off-road vehicle comprising a frame, a plurality of wheels supporting the frame, the plurality of wheels comprising at least one front wheel, and a prime mover powering at least one of the wheels, the prime mover being mounted on the frame, the frame having a plurality of frame portions including at least first, second and third frame portions that extend adjacent to the prime mover, the first and second frame portions being disposed generally to the lateral sides of the prime mover with the third frame portion extending

generally between said first and second frame portions, and a detachably affixed frame portion that is detachably coupled to at least one of the first, second and third frame portions such that the detachably affixed frame portion can be detached from the frame while at least the first, second and third frame portions remain supported by the at least one front wheel, wherein the prime mover has a portion extending generally upward, the detachably affixed frame portion being disposed adjacent to the generally upwardly extending portion of the prime mover, the vehicle further comprising a load container being coupled to at least one of the first, second and third frame portions.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An off-road vehicle comprising a frame, a plurality of wheels supporting the frame, the plurality of wheels comprising at least one front wheel, and an engine powering at least one of the wheels, the engine being mounted on the frame, the frame having a plurality of frame portions including at least first, second and third frame portions that extend adjacent to the engine, the first and second frame portions being disposed generally to the lateral sides of the engine with the third frame portion extending generally between said first and second frame portions, and a detachably affixed frame portion that is detachably coupled to at least one of the first, second and third frame portions such that the detachably affixed frame portion can be detached from the frame while at least the first, second and third frame portions remain supported by the at least one front wheel, wherein the engine has a cylinder head, the detachably affixed frame portion being disposed adjacent to the cylinder head, the vehicle further comprising a load container being coupled to at least one of the first, second and third frame portions.

8. **(Original)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein each frame portion is formed with a tubular member or a generally U-shaped member.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An off-road vehicle comprising a frame, a plurality of wheels supporting the frame, and a prime mover powering the wheels, the frame comprising a plurality of frame members, the frame members ~~being divided into first and second groups comprising first and second groups, the first and second groups each defining rear portions that are positioned behind the engine and extend in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle, the first and second groups being offset fore to aft relative to each other and overlapping with each other in a rear section of the first group and in a front section of the second group, the rear section of~~

~~the first group defining a first portion coupled with the second group, and the front section of the second group defining a second portion coupled with the first group; the rear portions of the first group being at least partially vertically offset above the rear portions of the second group when viewed from a lateral view, the rear portions of the first group being spaced apart from each other wider than the rear portions of the second group,~~ wherein the vehicle further comprises an exhaust system, at least a portion of the exhaust system being positioned between the frame members of the second group.

10. (Currently Amended) The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 9, wherein ~~the frame members comprise third and fourth groups, the third and fourth groups being offset fore to aft relative to each other and overlapping with each other in a rear section of the third group and in a front section of the fourth group, the rear section of the third group defining a first portion coupled with the fourth group, and the front section of the fourth group defining a second portion coupled with the third group, and wherein~~ one of the rear section of the ~~first~~ third group or the front section of the ~~second~~ fourth group extends farther from a longitudinal axis of the frame extending fore to aft than the other one of the rear section of the ~~first~~ third group or the front section of the ~~second~~ fourth group.

11. (Currently Amended) The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the wheels include a pair of front wheels, a front section of the ~~first~~ third group at least in part being interposed between the front wheels, the front wheels being coupled with the front section of the ~~first~~ third group.

12. (Currently Amended) The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the front section of the ~~first~~ third group is narrower than the rear section of the ~~first~~ third group or the front section of the ~~second~~ fourth group.

13. (Currently Amended) The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the wheels include a pair of rear wheels, a rear section of the ~~second~~ fourth group at least in part being interposed between the rear wheels, the rear wheels being coupled with the rear section of the ~~second~~ fourth group.

14. (Currently Amended) The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 13, wherein the rear section of the ~~second~~ fourth group is narrower than the rear section of the ~~first~~ third group or the front section of the ~~second~~ fourth group.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the ~~first~~ third and ~~second~~ fourth groups are arranged generally symmetrically relative to the longitudinal axis.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim [[9]] 10, wherein the wheels include a pair of front wheels, a front section of the ~~first~~ third group at least in part being interposed between the front wheels, the front wheels being coupled with the front section.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim [[9]] 10, wherein the wheels include a pair of rear wheels, a rear section of the ~~second~~ fourth group at least in part is interposed between the rear wheels, the rear wheels are coupled with the rear section.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 17, wherein the rear section of the ~~second~~ fourth group is narrower than the rear section of the ~~first~~ third group or the front section of the ~~second~~ fourth group.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim [[9]] 10, wherein the rear section of the ~~first~~ third group includes a front member and the front section of the ~~second~~ fourth group includes a rear member, the first portion of the rear section being a rear end of the front member, the second portion of the front section being a forward end of the rear member, the rear end of the front member being coupled to the rear member and the forward end of the rear member being coupled to the front member with the front member being spaced apart from the rear member.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 19, wherein the rear end of the front member is bent outwardly toward the rear member and the forward end of the rear member is bent inwardly toward the front member.

21. **(Original)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 9, wherein the frame members are tubular or U-shaped in section.

22. **(Original)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 9, wherein the frame members are rectangular in section.

23. **(Original)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 22, wherein the frame members have vertical and horizontal surfaces, the vertical surface being longer than the horizontal surface.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim [[9]] 10, wherein the first third group supports a front portion of the prime mover, and the ~~second~~ fourth group supports a rear portion of the prime mover.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the third frame portion extends along a rear side of the prime mover.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the detachably affixed frame portion is detachably affixed to at least one of the first and second frame portions.

27. **(Canceled)**

28. **(Canceled)**

29. **(New)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 9, further comprising left and right pairs of support members, the left pair of support members extending between the rear portions of the first and second groups of frame members on a left side of the frame, the right pair of support members extending between the rear portions of the first and second groups of frame members on a right side of the frame.

30. **(New)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 29, wherein the left and right pairs of support members are inclined relative to a vertical plane.

31. **(New)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 30, further comprising left and right sets of upper and lower suspension arms, wherein the lower suspension arm of each set is longer than the upper suspension arm of the respective set.

32. **(New)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 9, wherein the rear portions of the first group are disposed at least partially above the rear portions of the second group.

33. **(New)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 9, wherein the rear portions of the first group are each spaced apart from a longitudinal centerline, and the rear portions of the second group are each spaced apart from the longitudinal centerline, each of the rear portions of the first group being spaced further from the longitudinal centerline than each of the rear portions of the second group.

34. **(New)** The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the rear portions of the first group are spaced equidistant from a longitudinal centerline relative to each other, and the

rear portions of the second group are spaced equidistant from the longitudinal centerline relative to each other.

35. (New) The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the fourth group comprises at least one of the first group and the second group.

36. (New) The off-road vehicle as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the fourth group comprises at least the first group and the second group.

37. (New) An off-road vehicle comprising a frame, a plurality of wheels supporting the frame, and a prime mover powering the wheels, the frame comprising a plurality of frame members, the frame members being divided into first and second groups, the first and second groups being offset fore to aft relative to each other and overlapping with each other in a rear section of the first group and in a front section of the second group, the rear section of the first group defining a first portion coupled with the second group, and the front section of the second group defining a second portion coupled with the first group, wherein the rear section of the first group includes a front member and the front section of the second group includes a rear member, the first portion of the rear section being a rear end of the front member, the second portion of the front section being a forward end of the rear member, wherein the rear end of the front member is bent outwardly toward the rear member and the forward end of the rear member is bent inwardly toward the front member.